

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
 - a first laser oscillator generating a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength
 - 5 at which an absorption coefficient to the processing object is $1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ or more;
 - means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the first laser beam;
 - a second laser oscillator generating a second continuous wave laser beam;
 - means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the second laser
 - 10 beam to overlap with the beam spot of the first laser beam; and
 - means for controlling a relative position of the beam spot of the first laser beam and the beam spot of the second laser beam to the processing object.
2. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
- 15 wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.
3. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
- wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.
4. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
- 20 wherein the beam spot of the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.
5. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
- 25 wherein the beam spot of the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.
6. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
- wherein the first laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an Ar
- 30 laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO_2 laser, a YAG laser, a Y_2O_3 laser, a YVO_4 laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO_3 laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.
7. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
- 35 wherein the second laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an

Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

5 8. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein:
 the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is
transparent to the first laser beam; and
 an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to a surface of the processing
object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$ when W1 is defined as a length
10 of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the first laser beam.

 9. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein:
 the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is
15 transparent to the second laser beam; and
 an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to a surface of the processing
object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$ when W2 is defined as a length
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the second laser beam.

20 10. A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
 a first laser oscillator generating a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength
of visible light or a shorter wavelength than that of visible light;
 means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the first laser
beam;
25 a second laser oscillator generating a second continuous wave laser beam;
 means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the second laser
beam to overlap with the beam spot of the first laser beam; and
 means for controlling a relative position of the beam spot of the first laser
beam and the beam spot of the second laser beam to a processing object.

30 11. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
 wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

35 12. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
 wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.

13. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the beam spot of the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or
linear.

5

14. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the beam spot of the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or
linear.

10

15. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the first laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an Ar
laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser,
a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire
laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

15

16. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the second laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an
Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a
YAlO₃ laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

20

17. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein:
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is
transparent to the first laser beam; and
an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to a surface of the processing
object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$ when W1 is defined as a length
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the first laser beam.

25

30

18. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein:
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is
transparent to the second laser beam; and
an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to a surface of the processing
object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$ when W2 is defined as a length
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the second laser beam.

35

19. A laser irradiation method comprising the step of;
irradiating a processing object with a first pulsed laser beam having a
wavelength at which an absorption coefficient to the processing object is $1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ or
5 more and a second continuous wave laser beam,
wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a
beam spot formed on a surface of the processing object by the first laser beam and a
beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam are
overlapped.
- 10 20. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.
- 15 21. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.
22. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the
first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.
- 20 23. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the
second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.
- 25 24. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the
group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO_2 laser, a YAG laser, a
 Y_2O_3 laser, a YVO_4 laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO_3 laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an
alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.
- 30 25. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from
the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO_2 laser, a YAG laser, a Y_2O_3 laser, a
 YVO_4 laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO_3 laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a
35 helium-cadmium laser.

26. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein:

5 the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is
transparent to the first laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the processing
object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$ when W1 is defined as a length
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of the
processing object by the first laser beam.

10

27. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,
wherein:

the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is
transparent to the second laser beam; and

15

an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the
processing object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$ when W2 is defined
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of
the processing object by the second laser beam.

20

28. A laser irradiation method comprising the step of;

irradiating a processing object with a first pulsed laser beam having a
wavelength of visible light or a shorter wavelength than that of visible light and a
second continuous wave laser beam,

25 wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a
beam spot formed on a surface of the processing object by the first laser beam and a
beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam are
overlapped.

29. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
30 wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

30. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.

35 31. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,

wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

32. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
5 wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

33. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
10 wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

34. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
15 wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

20 35. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
wherein:
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and
an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the processing
25 object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$ when W1 is defined as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the first laser beam.

30 36. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,
wherein:
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and
an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the
processing object satisfies an inequality of $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$ when W2 is defined
35 as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of

the processing object by the second laser beam.

37. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of;

5 forming a semiconductor film on a insulating surface; and
irradiating the semiconductor film with a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength at which an absorption coefficient to the semiconductor film is $1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ or more and a second continuous wave laser beam to crystallize the semiconductor film,

10 wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a beam spot formed on a surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam and a beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam are overlapped.

15 38. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 37,
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

20 39. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 37,
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of the fundamental wave.

37, 40. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim
25 wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

37, 41. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim
30 wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular or linear.

42. A laser irradiation method according to claim 37,
35 wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a

Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

43. A laser irradiation method according to claim 37,

5 wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser

10 44. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 37,

 wherein:

 the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and

15 an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$ when W1 is defined as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam.

20 45. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 37,

 wherein:

 the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and

25 an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$ when W2 is defined as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam.

30 46. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of;

 forming a semiconductor film on a insulating surface; and

 irradiating the semiconductor film with a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength of visible light or a shorter wavelength than that of visible light and a
35 second continuous wave laser beam to crystallize the semiconductor film,

wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a beam spot formed on a surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam and a beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam are overlapped.

5

47. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

10

48. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of the fundamental wave.

15

49. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,
wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

20

50. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,
wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular or linear.

25

51. A laser irradiation method according to claim 46,
wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

30

52. A laser irradiation method according to claim 46,
wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO₂ laser, a YAG laser, a Y₂O₃ laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser

35

53. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim
46,

wherein:

5 the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface
and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the
semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$ when W1 is defined
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of
the semiconductor film by the first laser beam.

10

54. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim
46,

wherein:

15 the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface
and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the
semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$ when W2 is defined
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of
the semiconductor film by the second laser beam.

20